

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 494
By Williams (Wil)

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Darrell Waltrip on his
outstanding NASCAR Winston Cup career.

WHEREAS, the NASCAR Winston Cup auto racing series continues to experience a
tremendous growth in popularity; and

WHEREAS, Darrell Waltrip was one of the primary reasons for the early growth of the
sport; and

WHEREAS, Darrell was born February 5, 1947 in Owensboro, Kentucky, and started his
distinguished racing career by racing go-karts at age 12; and

WHEREAS, just four years later, he and his father rebuilt a 1936 Chevrolet, which
Darrell entered in a race at a local dirt track near Owensboro; and

WHEREAS, by the late 1960s, Darrell showed signs of future greatness as a regular
driver at the Fairgrounds in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, he quickly became one of the nation's top short-track drivers and made his
historic first NASCAR Winston Cup start in 1972, at Alabama's Talladega Speedway; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Darrell made the fateful decision to become a full-time NASCAR
Winston Cup competitor; and

WHEREAS, he recalled: "Wherever I would go, I was almost assured I was going to win
one or two races a week and I made a good living doing that. It was difficult to step to the big

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leagues and be just another fish in a big pond. So it took some time for me to make up my mind I needed to get in there, give it 100 percent and make my mark"; and

WHEREAS, throughout his storied racing career Darrell has always given more than 100 percent and his success has made a definitive mark on the profession; and

WHEREAS, his exemplary record includes: 84 NASCAR Winston Cup victories, being tied for third on the all-time victory list; 37 Speedway victories, seventh on the all-time list; 59 Winston Cup poles, fourth on the all-time list; 23 Speedway poles, tied for sixth on the all-time list; winning the prestigious Daytona 500 in 1989; being the only five-time winner of the Coca-Cola 600 at the Charlotte Motor Speedway (1978, 1979, 1985, 1988, and 1989); and winning the inaugural Winston Cup race at Charlotte in 1985; and

WHEREAS, this impressive list also includes: setting the modern era record of eight races from pole in 1981 and tying the all-time record of four straight; winning seven of ten short track races in 1982, tying a record; winning the 1981 Busch Clash; being the first Winston Cup driver to earn \$10 million, on February 18, 1990; and finishing an incredible 40 consecutive NASCAR Winston Cup races, between July 25, 1993 and October 23, 1994; and

WHEREAS, his racing excellence is clearly demonstrated by his Winston Cup standings over the years; he has finished as the top driver three times (1981, 1982, and 1985), as the runner-up three times (1979, 1983, and 1986); as the third best driver once (1978) and as the fourth best driver three times (1977, 1987 and 1989); and

WHEREAS, in addition to his numerous victories on the NASCAR Winston Cup circuit, Darrell Waltrip has competed in and emerged victorious in a number of other series: the NASCAR Busch Grand National Series, 13 wins; the American Speed Association, 7 wins; the International Race of Champions, 3 wins; the Automobile Racing Club of America, 2 wins; the NASCAR All-American Challenge Series, 2 wins; the All Pro Racing Association, 2 wins; the United States Auto Club, 1 win; and the ARTGO Challenge Series, 1 win; and

WHEREAS, his long list of awards and honors includes being the NASCAR Winston Cup champion, 1981, 1982, and 1985; winning the Most Popular Driver Award, 1989 and 1990; being selected American Driver of the Year, 1979, 1981, and 1982; being named the National Motorsports Press Association Driver of the Year, 1977, 1981, and 1982; being chosen *Auto Racing Digest* Driver of the Year, 1981 and 1982; and being honored as the 1979 Tennessee Professional Athlete of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Darrell is strongly supported by his wife, Stevie, and they are the loving parents of two daughters, Jessica and Sarah; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize a man who has made a tremendous difference in the auto racing profession; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Darrell Waltrip upon his exemplary NASCAR career and to wish him well in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.